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**Mayor Dixon Joins Regional Business and Civic Leaders to
Announce New Transportation Corporation**

Otis Rolley, III to serve as President and CEO

Baltimore, MD (October 16, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon is pleased to join James Shea, Chairman of Venable LLC and regional business, civic and non-profit leaders in announcing the creation of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA), a multi-sector collaborative dedicated to promoting a world-class transportation system for Central Maryland.

CMTA's vision is to have a thriving Metropolitan area, which boasts an array of convenient transportation options, including interconnected mass transit choices that will allow all citizens to move efficiently through the region. James Shea is serving as Chair of CMTA's Board of Directors.

"Transportation has emerged as one of the most important and multi-faceted issues facing the Baltimore region," said Mayor Dixon. "The collective experiences and vision of the individuals and organizations involved in CMTA gives me great hope that we can find regional solutions that allow citizens to live, earn, play, learn and more efficiently access resources throughout Central Maryland. There has been a lot of talk, its time for action."

"Ensuring people have the ability to get to work, access healthcare and education institutions, as well as entertainment venues throughout this region has a direct impact on the economic and social viability of Central Maryland," said Shea. "This is an unprecedented effort to bring the collective energy of corporate leaders, transportation advocates, area foundations and the non-profit community together around an issue that will help define where we go as a region for decades to come."

Otis Rolley, III will serve as CMTA's President and CEO. A former Director of the Baltimore City Department of Planning, Mr. Rolley has worked with Mayor Dixon first as the co-director of her transition team in November 2006; then as Mayor Dixon's chief of staff since she took office in January. He will take charge of CMTA in mid-November.

“CMTA is seeking to unite people across socio-economic and political lines to work together to promote a transportation agenda that advances economic development, opportunity and access for the Central Maryland region,” said Rolley. “I am excited to be a part of this effort and look forward to continuing to serve the public in this new and challenging role.”

In addition to bringing various leaders and organizations to the table around the issue of transportation, CMTA will work to ensure that the growing regional population and increased transportation needs does not adversely impact the region’s water and air quality. CMTA’s board represents a diverse mix of public and private sector perspectives, but all agreed on the importance of regional cooperation to improving transportation.

“I am very pleased to join with other members of the business community, our government leaders and community representatives to move the Baltimore Region forward,” said Laura Gamble, President of Bank of America Maryland and one of two Vice Chairs of the CMTA Board. “The CMTA brings together experts in a variety of fields, and I am confident we can find and implement smart transportation strategies.”

“The strengths of the Baltimore Region and our diverse communities are drawing more people here every year. Transportation is one of our most pressing challenges, and it is a top priority of the GBC,” said Atwood “Woody” Collins, President and COO of M&T Bank Mid-Atlantic Region, Chairman of the Board of the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC), and a member of the CMTA Board of Directors. “I am confident that Otis with his knowledge of planning and land use, and this strong Board, together can help to move us toward building the transportation infrastructure our region needs.”

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of GBC and Vice Chair of the CMTA Board also stated, “With his planning background, Otis Rolley understands the importance of a strong transportation system to a growing region. His knowledge of planning and land use will be of value.”

Along with various business and civic groups, several foundations committed to helping people and organizations have a direct impact on the quality of life in the Central Maryland region through philanthropic and charitable giving are also on the Board and funding CMTA, one of which is the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF).

“An enhanced transportation system is fundamental to our goal that Baltimore boast a growing economy where all have the opportunity to thrive,” said Thomas E. Wilcox, President and CEO of BCF and a founding member of the CMTA Board of Directors.

Through the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s process and continued job growth, the Central Maryland Region can expect more than 11,000 new residents in the next 10 years. Central Maryland’s business community, local governments and civic organizations are addressing the challenges of growth through several multi-agency working groups, including the CMTA, the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

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